

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE LIFE OF EDGAR ALLAN POE. By WILLIAM E. GILL.
Two vols. \$15. C. L. Dillingham.

The "worns and the biographers" that shed a terror around the death-bed of Rachel have found so distasteful a repeat in the reminiscences of Edgar Poe that the present volume has been devoted to the vindication of his memory from their attacks. With the generous view of presenting the redeeming traits of the poet in the fairest light, of placing the best construction on his erratic habits and wayward acts, of correcting the statements which, in many instances, appear to have had their origin in an unfeigned love of falsehood stimulated by personal spite, Mr. Gill has engaged in a thorough examination of the subject, the fruits of which are brought forward in this interesting work. If he does not succeed in making a sage or saint of his hero, he shows that he was often more shamed against than sinning; that his faults were due to a singularly unfortunate temperament rather than to malice of purpose; that his brilliant talents were obscured by inglorious self-conceit; and that, although in fact a moral wreck, he was not so black as he has been painted, and at times displayed the germs of a better nature, which, under more kindly circumstances, might have ripened into a certain worth of character. The positions of the author in defence of Poe are fortified by the testimony of several of his contemporaries, to whose judgment great weight may safely be attached. This book is written with a vehemence of temper—called forth by a sense of wrong towards one who could no longer protect himself—which does not add to the force of his argument; but the facts which he adduces may be left to the calm decision of his readers, who may find in them a suggestion for the exercise of charity, without the sacrifice of justice. It is evident, even from these pages, that Poe was a sufferer from the fall of Adam, but he seems to have been as little a miracle of wickedness as a paragon of virtue.

THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, WITH NEW MARGINAL NOTES, BY THE COMMISSIONERS. AND NEW YORK NOTES. By Moses GOREY, H. THOMAS, one of the Commissioners. Two vols. \$12. Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co.

The present volume contains the authentic text of the "Code of Civil Procedure" as enacted by the Legislature of New York in 1877, with the final amendments to the "Code of Remedial Justice," adopted in 1876, and forming the first instalment of the New Revision of the Statutes, submitted to the Legislature by the Board of Commissioners appointed for that purpose. As it now stands, the work furnishes the standard authority for legal practice under the New Civil Code, and forms an indispensable appendage to the working library of every lawyer. The copious notes of Mr. Thorne, though not to be considered as official, serve to elucidate the views and purposes of the Commissioners, and the construction of the law. An introduction to the volume by the Commissioners presents an interesting historical view of the various attempts at codification and revision in the State of New York since the enactment of the Revised Statutes, together with some explanation of the manner in which the preparation of this "Code of Civil Procedure" has been accomplished.

THE ANTELOPE AND DEER OF AMERICA. By JOHN DEAN CARON, LL.D. \$10. Hand & Houghton.

The peculiar value of this popular monograph consists in its being founded on the actual observation of many years, with ample opportunity for investigating the character and habits of living specimens of the animal which presented the subject of study. Judge Caton of Illinois, the author of the work, is well known as an assiduous student of Natural History, especially of the American deer, and, as usual to his inquiries, he has kept in documentation several varieties of that animal, the fruits of which have been a large amount of well-authenticated facts that could not have been obtained from casual observation in the forest. He has conducted his researches from a practical point of view, making no attempt to add to the class of technical classifications, and abstaining from the details of anatomy and osteology which concern the special zoological student rather than the general reader. His book, accordingly, is no less enterprising than instructive. Dealing more in description than in analysis, it presents a series of vivid pictures of animal life, illustrating, so to speak, the personal biography of the individual, as well as the general characteristics of the species.

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